



# GREENSBORO URBAN AREA

## Transportation Advisory Committee

### TRANSPORTATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

**Minutes of October 21, 1999**  
**10:30 a.m. Greensboro, NC**

#### **TAC MEMBERS PRESENT**

Mayor Carolyn Allen	TAC Chair
Sandy Carmany	Greensboro City Council
Phyllis Gibbs	County Commissioner
Mary Rakestraw	County Commissioner
Don Vaughan	Greensboro City Council

#### **OTHERS PRESENT**

Richard Atkins	TCC Chair	Tyler Meyer	GDOT
Jim Westmoreland	GDOT	Mike Simpson	Parks & Recreation
Jim Elza	Guilford Co. Planning	Candace Bruton	Parks & Recreation
Tom Martin	Planning	Tim Hayes	Barbara H. Mulkey Engineering
Jerry Dudeck	NCDOT	Bill Goodwin	Barbara H. Mulkey Engineering
Elizabeth James	GTA	Veronica Dunlap	GDOT
Ken King	GDOT		

#### **ACTION ITEMS**

##### **Approve October 4, 1999 Minutes**

Mayor Allen welcomed attendees and called the meeting to order. Don Vaughan moved to approve the minutes. Sandy Carmany seconded and the motion carried.

##### **Unified Planning Work Program Amendment**

Ken King reviewed a proposed resolution to amend the *Greensboro Urban Area Planning Work Program FY 1999 - FY 2000* by programming \$67,538 in previously unobligated PL funds. Most of this amount will cover contracts encumbered in FY 1998 – FY 1999. Sandy Carmany moved to adopt the resolution. Phyllis Gibbs seconded the motion which then carried.

##### **TAC Adoption of MPO Priority Needs**

Ken King reviewed the Priority Needs handout. Project information sheets with maps, photos, and descriptive information were included in the handout and presented as a slideshow. The materials are organized under the headings of roadway projects, public transportation projects, enhancement grants, and technology projects. Key roadway priorities include the proposed

Bridford Parkway Extension and Gallimore Dairy Road Widening projects. Other key priorities include GTA replacement vehicles. Public comment on transportation needs was sought via newspaper advertisements and letters to TREBIC, the Chamber, and the Towns of Pleasant Garden, Sedalia, Summerfield and Oak Ridge. Pleasant Garden and Sedalia returned comments. Sedalia urged rural public transportation improvements. However, rural public transportation is outside of the direct purview of the MPO. Pleasant Garden reiterated that construction agreements with NCDOT regarding the US 421 Interchanges (at Company Mill/Woody Mill Road, Neely Road and Williams Dairy Road) need to be observed and restated its interest in becoming a voting member of the MPO.

Libby James presented the *Greensboro Urban Area Fiscal Year 2002-2008 Transportation Improvement Program Public Transportation Element* that details GTA funding as requested by the NCDOT Public Transportation Division. King stated the planned November TAC meeting could be cancelled if the MPO Priority Needs and Public Transportation Element were adopted. Sandy Carmany moved to approve the MPO Priority Needs and the Public Transportation Element. Mary Rakestraw seconded and the motion carried.

Facility related issues were cited during the priority needs discussion including:

- The US 421 designation has been removed from West Market Street and replaced with a designation as SR 1008. Parts of Market Street are designated as a truck route. A copy of the truck route map will be provided TAC.
- Signal installation and safety improvements at Sandy Ridge Road and West Market Street are under discussion by GDOT, NCDOT, and the US Postal Service (due to the location of the Bulk Mail facility).
- Increasing problems have been observed at the intersection of Guilford College and Hornaday Roads. GDOT will review the problem.
- Timing problems have been observed at the Battleground Avenue and Markland Drive intersection. GDOT will report back on the problem and its solution.
- GTA has researched bus bike rack installation and is preparing a grant application.
- Negative aesthetic impacts of the GTA maintenance facility were cited. Phase 1 of a facility beautification project that includes plantings is complete. Phase 2 to include fencing and landscaping will be complete in Spring 2000.
- Due to maintenance problems and the use of loaner buses, the GTA bus fleet is not 100% accessible. Bus replacement will bring the fleet into 100% accessibility.

## **BUSINESS ITEMS**

### **Long Range Transportation Plan Status**

Tyler Meyer reported final Federal and state approvals have been granted for the MPO Conformity Finding, the 2025 *Greensboro Urban Area Long Range Transportation Plan* and the *FY 2000 – 2006 Metropolitan Transportation Improvement Program*.

## **OTHER ITEMS**

### **Board Member Update -- *Deferred***

#### **Battleground Rail Trail Consultant Presentation**

Tim Hayes of Barbara H. Mulkey Engineering summarized results of the proposed Battleground Rail Trail feasibility study. Section One runs from Pisgah Church Road to Cone Boulevard. Rails have been removed on this segment. Section Two from Cone Boulevard to Green Valley Road is inactive except for delivery staging use. Section Three from Green Valley into downtown is an active Norfolk Southern line that serves only one user: Chandler Concrete. Two public meetings have been held. The public input received to date was characterized as “generally positive.” The study found Section One to be feasible but Sections Two and Three to be questionable at this time. This finding assumes that Chandler Concrete and Norfolk Southern intend to continue their current use of the rail line into the foreseeable future.

Sandy Carmany asked if the project would be a viable transportation facility in absence of the southern segments and the downtown connection. Jim Westmoreland stated pedestrian access from residential to commercial uses along the corridor would still be provided. Acquisition of the entire corridor was discussed as a significant corridor preservation opportunity with long term potential for staged conversion to express bus and/or passenger rail use. GDOT will report to City Council with recommended actions following a review of the feasibility study.

#### **Airport Area Update**

Jim Elza reported on the Airport Area Plan. The planning committee is in the information gathering phase. The central issue before the committee is the future of the airport area in light of airport plans stemming from a change of mission from a passenger airport to a cargo oriented one and the spillover effects on land use, environmental quality, and surface transportation.

#### **Gallimore Dairy Road**

Gallimore Dairy Road is an increasingly critical connection between the Greensboro and High Point areas. Airport expansion plans and environmental constraints pose significant road alignment issues. Given the time generally required by the TIP process, the MPO and the City of Greensboro should accelerate the study and implementation schedule of the widening project in coordination with NCDOT and through the possible use of proposed bond funds.

#### **Moving On**

Mayor Allen noted this as the last TAC meeting of 1999. A plaque will be presented to John Watkins at his retirement dinner recognizing his outstanding transportation contributions to the Greensboro Urban Area. Mayor Allen presented a plaque to Richard Atkins in recognition of his accomplished service as GDOT Director and TCC Chair. Atkins praised TAC and TCC as reflecting an excellent model for doing business. Sandy Carmany presented Mayor Allen a plaque recognizing her leadership in her tenure as TAC Chair. The meeting was then adjourned.